



Beaverton Police Department

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Chief Geoff Spalding



NEWS RELEASE

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Three Flags Traffic Safety Campaign

Officers from the Beaverton Police Department will again join law enforcement agencies throughout Oregon in the Three Flags Seatbelt Enforcement Campaign, beginning Monday, August 27, 2012 and continuing through Sunday, September 9, 2012. The focus of the program is to increase public awareness of the seatbelt laws with the goal of reducing traffic injuries and deaths.

The Beaverton Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit will take to the road during this campaign, to focus their attention on seatbelt violations and child safety seat violations, but will also be watching for drivers who are speeding or driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Oregon law requires that there be "proper use" of the entire seatbelt system; lap belt placed low across the hips and a shoulder belt over the collarbone and crossing the center of the chest. Belts should be free of slack and lying flat with no twists or knots. If necessary, slide the attachment on the door post up or down to fit the size of you or your passenger. Shoulder belts should not be placed under the arm or behind the back – this can cause serious internal injuries or ejection in the event of a crash.

Proper fit and use of seatbelts and child safety seats is proven to prevent serious injury and save lives. Nationwide in 2010, 12,546 individuals age five and older were saved by using seatbelts. Another 3,341 more lives might have been saved if seatbelts had been used. Unbelted or improperly belted passengers face a much greater chance of being ejected from the vehicle during a crash. Their chances of surviving an ejection are less than 25 percent.

The Beaverton Police Department holds free child safety seat clinics throughout the year. The next two clinics will be on September 1, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Kuni Cadillac, 3725 S.W. Cedar Hills Boulevard and September 22, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith.

The Beaverton Police Department will continue to strive to keep our citizens safe, reminding you that car seats, seat belts and following the posted speed limit are an effective way to protect you and your family. Our enforcement efforts will be on-going as we work with the community to save lives.

Three Flag Blitz campaigns are funded through grants received from the Oregon Chiefs of Police and the Oregon Department of Transportation.

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